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RURAL ELECTRIFICATION ADMINISTRATION

PROGRESS BULLETIN
GENERAL NO. - 63

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Franklin P. Wood, of the REA engineering staff, left Washington today to make a final survey of engineering details of rural cooperative generating plants projected in Michigan, Minnesota, North Dakota and Ohio, for which REA has set aside construction funds or has received loan applications.

Two of these proposed powerplants would be located in Michigan, near Visterberg and on Beaver Island, one in the Twin City area of Minnesota, and at least one and possibly two elsewhere in Minnesota. Another would be in North Dakota, probably near Grace, and still another in Ohio, to serve several REA-financed distribution projects in that State which have been unable to purchase electricity at wholesale at a price which would allow the projects to pay out.

Most REA-financed rural electric distribution systems throughout the United States have been able to buy power at wholesale at an average cost of less than $1\frac{1}{4}$ cents a kilowatt. But the projects to be served by these projected generating plants were not successful in efforts to buy power at reasonable rates.

Mr. Wood, who is assistant to the coordinator of the Engineering Division, expects to visit Michigan first, where he will study the best location and type of construction for a generating plant using natural gas as fuel in the northern part of Ingham County. Another plant, on Beaver Island in Charlevoix County, is also under consideration. No power is available on the island.

While in Michigan Mr. Wood will also inspect two REA-financed generating plants about to go into operation shortly, at Adrian and at Zeeland, and two already producing power for farmers, at Ubly and Eaton Rapids. In Wisconsin he will visit an REA-financed electric generating plant functioning successfully at Chippewa Falls. A hydro-electric plant has been suggested to provide additional capacity for Wisconsin power distribution cooperatives.

In Ohio, Mr. Wood will make a final survey for a plant for which \$500,000 has been set aside by REA.

